Deal for transfer to employees between Hindustan Liver Limited Lipton India Limited

3214. SHRI N. GIRI PRASAD: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether any deal was materialised between the Hindustan Lever Limited and Lipton India Limited in 1983 and 1984 regarding the transfer of the Food Division Business, both human and animal, of the former, spread out all over the country, to the later; and

(b) whether there was a written stipulation in the Agreement for sale that the transfer of employees would be restricted only to those employees who expressed their consent to the change; and if so, whether the said stipulation was honoured by the Hindustan Lever Limited?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR): (a) and (b) According to the available information, M/s. Hindustan Lever Limited transferred its foods business comprising edible fats, dairy and animal feeds to Lipton India Limited as an ongoing concern in 1983-84. The agreement for sale stipulated compliance with the provisions of Section 25-0 of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 and provided continuity of past services, full protection of existing terms and conditions and payment of compensation in the event of retrechment. On Complaince of these conditions, the employees of M/s. Hindustan Lever Limited automatically became employees of the new organisation, namely Lipton India Limited.

Offer to International Labour Organisation for training facilities in occupational safety

3215. SHRI RAM DAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased state:

(a) whether India has ocered to the International Labour Organisation (ILO) training facilities in advanced skills in occupational safety, development and social security network and safety in Mines as reported in the Financial Express dated 23rd July, 1992;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and the capabilities which our country has recently developed in these areas; and has recently developed in these areas; and

(c) whether Labour Secretary also suggested to I.L.O's. Assistant Director General, who is looking after the Asia and the Pacific region and currently was on tour to New Delhi, need of adoption of standards and conventions also, if so, what are the details of talks alongwith the result thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR): (a) to (c) Mr. T. Nakamura, Assistant Director General, responsible for ILO activities in Asia and the Pacific visited India from 16-21 July, 1992. During his meeting with the senior officials of the Ministry of Labour on July 20, 1992, Labour Secretary, *inter-alia*, drew Mr. Nakamura's attention as hte existence, in India, of a number of training institutions such as the Central Labour Institute, Bombay, Advanced Training Institute, Madras, Foremen Training Institute, Bangalore, etc. and to the vast expertise available in various labour related fields which could be utilised by the ILO for strengthening and promoting regional cooperation.

Labour Secretary also reiterated the importance that India attached to ILO Conventions in setting basic standards aimed at improving the working conditions of workers. He emphasised that the ILO should extend technical cooperation to create an "enabling environment" for ratification of ILO Conventions.

Child labour in the country

3216. SHRI RAM DAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India is one of the countries which are actively seeking the assistance of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) to cope with the rising problem of child labour as

reported in the Financial Express dated 23rd July, 1992;

(b) whether Government have so far undertaken any survey as to ascertain the number of children in the country working as bonded labour in brick kilns, stone quarrying hazardous construction work and in thousands more in carpet weaving in India, if so, their number and working conditions thereof; and

(c) whether Government have examined the report of Committee of Experts on the Exploitation of children released recently by ILO Director-General, if so, what action Government have taken so far against Child Labour below 14 years of age with a view to grant basic rights to millions of such children in the country?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No comprehensive survey has been conducted which reveals number of working children industry-wise. However, according to the 1981 Census, the number of child workers upto the age of 14 years was 13.6 Million (excluding Assam). About 27,000 children were working in Mines and quarries and 79,000 in construction.

(c) No specific report of committee of experts on exploitation of children has been received in the Ministry.

Caracas, Resolution on Child Labour

3217. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the 15th World Congress of International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, in Caracas held from 17th to 24th March, 1992 have adopted a resolution on Child Labour;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that one of the recommendations of the Resolution is to intensify international campaigns to deny favourable terms of trade to those countries which practise child labour and inclusion of minimum labour standards, including a ban on the practice of child labour in the international trade and co-operation agreements; and

(c) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR): (a) and (b) The recommendation is for the affiliates of ICFTU and their Executive Board.

(c) Child Labour is prohibited in certain occupations/processes and regulated in others under the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986. Similar provisions exists in other labour laws also. Total elimination of Child Labour is not considered feasible immediately owing to the existing socio-economic conditions of the country.

Application of trade sanctions for the purpose of elimination of child labour is not considered appropriate as they may be counter productive and lead to economic hardship to children and their families.

Child Labour in Carpet Industry

3218. DR. BAPU KALDATE:
SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) what, according to the recent study, is the percentage of child labour in the carpet industry in the country;

(b) what are the prevailing working conditions in the carpet industry and to what extent the child labour laws are being implemented and the nature of the drawbacks noticed in the implementation of the child labour laws;

(c) what follow up action has been taken by Government to improve the working conditions in the carpet industry so far in this regard; and

(d) whether Government propose to consider complete elimination of child